

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 162, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 162.0086 to read as follows:

Sec. 162.0086. INFORMATION REGARDING SIBLING ACCESS. (a) The Department of Family and Protective Services shall provide information to each person seeking to adopt a child placed for adoption by the department regarding the right of a child's sibling to file a suit for access to the child under Sections 102.0045 and 153.551.

(b) The department may provide the information required under Subsection (a) on any form or application provided to prospective adoptive parents.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Passed the Senate on April 19, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 24, 2017: Yeas 146, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved June 1, 2017.

Effective September 1, 2017.

APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES OF COURT INVESTIGATORS FOR CERTAIN COURTS IN GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDINGS

CHAPTER 414

S.B. No. 1016

AN ACT

relating to the appointment and duties of court investigators for certain courts in guardianship proceedings.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 1002.009, Estates Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1002.009. COURT INVESTIGATOR. "Court investigator" means a person appointed by the judge of a statutory probate court under Section 25.0025, Government Code, or a judge under Section 1054.156.

SECTION 2. Section 1054.152, Estates Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1054.152. GENERAL DUTIES. A court investigator shall:

(1) supervise a court visitor program established under Subchapter C if the court for which the investigator is appointed operates that type of program and, in that capacity, shall serve as the chief court visitor;

(2) investigate a complaint received from any person about a guardianship and report to the judge, if necessary; and

(3) perform other duties as assigned by the judge or required by this title.

SECTION 3. Subchapter D, Chapter 1054, Estates Code, is amended by adding Section 1054.156 to read as follows:

Sec. 1054.156. APPOINTMENT OF COURT INVESTIGATOR FOR CERTAIN COURTS. (a) The judge of a court as defined by Section 1002.008(a)(1) or (2), other than a statutory probate court, may appoint a court investigator if the appointment is authorized by the commissioners court.

(b) The commissioners court may authorize additional court investigators for a county if necessary.

(c) The commissioners court shall set the salary of a court investigator.

(d) The appointment of a court investigator by the judge of a statutory probate court is governed by Section 25.0025, Government Code.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Passed the Senate on May 4, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 24, 2017: Yeas 145, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Approved June 1, 2017.

Effective September 1, 2017.

**ACCOMMODATION OF A DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING
STUDENT IN DRIVER EDUCATION; AUTHORIZING A FEE**

CHAPTER 415

S.B. No. 1051

AN ACT

relating to the accommodation of a deaf or hard of hearing student in driver education; authorizing a fee.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 1001, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 1001.059 to read as follows:

Sec. 1001.059. DEPARTMENT DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE FOR DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING STUDENTS. (a) *The department shall:*

(1) *create a driver education course for minors and adults that presents the course curriculum in American Sign Language; and*

(2) *make the course described by Subdivision (1) available on the department's Internet website.*

(b) *The department may collaborate with another state agency or contract with a licensed driver education school or instructor to create the course.*

(c) *The commission by rule shall establish a fee for the course. The fee established under this section:*

(1) *is in addition to a fee charged for a certificate for the course; and*

(2) *must be in an amount that is:*

(A) *not more than an amount necessary to cover the cost of creating and administering the course; and*

(B) *not more than the average cost of an online driver education course provided in this state, as determined by the commission.*

SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 1001, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 1001.1016 to read as follows:

Sec. 1001.1016. ACCOMMODATION FOR DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING STUDENTS. (a) *In this section:*

(1) *"Deaf" means a hearing loss of such severity that an individual must depend on visual methods to communicate.*

(2) *"Hard of hearing" means a loss of hearing function to an individual such that the individual:*

(A) *relies on residual hearing; and*

(B) *may depend on visual methods to communicate.*

(b) *The commission by rule shall require a driver education school providing a driver education course to:*

(1) *in the manner described by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42*